

The Darnell House
Mt. Laurel, Burlington County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-589

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Darnell House
Mt. Laurel, Burlington County, New Jersey

Owner: John L. Godfrey

Date of Erection: 1782*, with later additions

Architect: Unknown

Builders: 1. Simeon Haines (d. 1794), 2. John
Collins, and 3. Edmund Darnell

Present Condition: Original

Number of Stories: Two and garret and cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - brick, later stucco face

Interior walls - brick party walls and
frame partitions

Chimneys - brick, built into inside of
gable end walls

Roof - gable and leanto wood shingled

Historical Data:

The identification of the successive owners
and builders of this composite house is found possible
by search of title in the public records reported as
follows:

* This date 1782 is found on the latch plate on the
front door facing the old Mt. Holly Road.

Abraham Haines^(a) of Evesham Township (now Mt. Laurel Twp.), by his will dated 10 August 1757 and proved 1st February 1758, devised his Mansion House and Homestead Plantation to his son Simeon Haines^(b), reciting purchase of 320 acres of the same from Hugh Sharp by deed of 7 January 1716, and of 11 acres being part of 55 from his brother Richard Haines.

Simeon Haines^(c) youngest son and devisee abovesaid, thus came into possession of the paternal homestead upon the death of his widowed mother in 1769 and died there intestate in 1794. In the division of his real estate among his heirs, as reported to the Orphans' Court on 29 June 1799, lots nos. 5, 11, 18 were assigned to his daughter Agnes Haines. In the record of this*, lot no. 18 is described as "being detached and not appurtenant to the Homestead Plantation", and as bounded thus: Beginning at a stone in the old

(a) Abraham Haines d. 1758 possessed of large estate in Evesham Twp., Burlington Co., N.J., and in Frederick Co., Va. He mar. 14 May 1719 Grace Hollingshead (per records of Haddonfield Mo. Mtg. of Friends) who d. 1769, and had issue: Abraham d. 1760 in Frederick Co., Va.; Joshua d. before 1766; Isaac, Benjamin, Noah, Edmund, Isaiah, Simeon, Mary m. Wm. Sharp, and Agnes m. Joseph Hackeny. (W. F. Cregar, ancestry of William S. Haines, 1887, p. 10).

(b) Abstract of the will of Abraham Haines, publ. in N.J. Archives, XXXIII, 137, names wife Grace and children, Abraham, Isaac, Benjamin, Noah, Edmond, Isaiah, Simeon (under age), Mary Sharp and Agnes Hackney, and devisee some 1855 acres.

(c) Simeon⁴ Haines, of Evesham Twp., youngest son of Abraham and Grace (Hollingshead) Haines, a minor in 1758, d. in 1794, having mar. per N.J. license dated 26 May 1766 Mary Stratton, dau. of Emanuel Stratton, and had issue: Stacy b. 3 Feb. 1768, d. 6 Oct. 1842; Simeon 1771-1824, mar. Anne Coles; Samuel, Agnes, Mary, Hannah, Chalkley, Mahlon, Joel and Edith. (Cregar, cited supra.)

*Orphans Court Minutes, Vol. 1, p. 291. Map of division filed in Box H in Surrogate's Court.

Mt. Holly Road, a corner to Edmund Darnell's land, and runs by the same N. 44 deg. 15 min. W. 5.65 chains to a stone, corner to Darnell, thence S. 52 deg. W. 1.84 to another stone, cor. to Darnell, thence S. 44 deg. 15 min. E. 5.56 to another stone, cor. to Darnell, in the old Mt. Holly Road, thence along the road N. 55 deg. 15 min. E. 185 to place of beginning, containing 1 acre.

By deed of 1st November 1804, this daughter as Agnes Dudley, widow, conveyed to John Collins for \$266.67 a one acre lot, reciting it having been assigned to her, with other land, in the division of the real estate of her father, Simeon Haines as abovesaid, Collins conveyed the same lot to Jane Darnell^(d) by his deed of 17 August 1819, and she devised "one house and lot of land which I have lately purchased of John Collins, weaver, situated in the Township of Evesham, unto my granddaughter, Mary Darnell", by her will dated 20 September 1819.

Mary Darnell the devisee sold the same house and its one acre lot fronting on the northwest side of the Mt. Holly old road, to Edmond Darnell by deed of 18 March 1824, for \$100, in which the description by metes and bounds is the same as that of lot no. 18 as given above.

Edmond Darnell devised to his sons Job and David, "all this my tract of land and plantation where I now reside, containing about 210 acres," by his will dated 15 April 1848.

By deed of 13 December 1866, Job Darnell one of the two sons and devisees abovenamed, sold his half interest in the paternal farm to his brother David Darnell, for \$10,500, describing the entire tract as containing some 250 acres and lying on both sides of the road from Moorestown to Mt. Laurel at the crossing of the road from Evesham.

(d) Probably the Jane Driver who mar. 1754 Edward Darnell 1730-1791 and had sons Samuel and Edmund who mar. 1790 Rachel Dudley and had issue: Rachel mar. Benj. Satterthwaite, Joshua, Edmund, Ann Hannah, Isaaq, Job mar. Agnes Mullen, David, and others. (F.B. Lee, Geneal. and Mem. Hist. of N.J., 1910, II, 500).

David Darnell^(e) who thus came into full possession of the farm in 1866 sold to his son Howard Darnell 198 acres thereof by deed of 23 March 1870, describing it as bounded southwest partly by the road from Moorestown to Mt. Laurel and crossed by the road from Evesham. The one acre lot and its house mentioned above, located on the northwest side of the latter road, was included in this large tract.

The real estate of Howard Darnell deceased was conveyed by the appointed commissioners to William E. Darnell by their deed of 27 December 1900. The last named sold 179 acres thereof, including the said house, to Frank Ryan on 10 January 1901, who sold 155 acres thereof to Edward L. Godfrey on 17 January 1919. This grantee conveyed the same to John L. Godfrey on 20 July 1934, and he remains as owner at the time of our survey of the house in 1939.

Bibliography:

Search of title in Land and Probate records of Burlington County and in those of the Provincial Secretary (now deposited with Secretary of State) by Oscar F. Benjamin, research editor, reported 10 August 1939

Lucius D. Cook
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

(e) David Darnell, a son of Edmund and Rachel (Dudley) Darnell, mar. Mary C. Evans, and had issue: Howard who mar. Elizabeth F. Haines, John mar. Edith Middleton, Rebecca mar. James Bell, Jane mar. Robert Engle, Mary A. unm., Ezra, unm., and David, unm., (Lee, cited supra)